

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00024 101504Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 L-03 ACDA-19

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /115 W
----- 063871

R 100830Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1215

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSYPARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0024

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MAEA, FR, TC

SUBJ: SALE OF ADDITIONAL MIRAGE FIGHTERS TO ABU DHABI

REF: A. PARIS 00694 (NOTAL)

B. LONDON 00170 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH FRENCH CHARGE BELLIVIER CONTINUES DENY WELTER
OF INTL PRESS REPORTS RE SALE OF ADDITIONAL MIRAGEJET
FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO ABU DHABI, PAK AMB AND OTHER DIPL
SOURCES HAVE INFORMED EMB THAT DEAL FOR ABU DHABI TO PURCHASE
SECOND SQUADRON OF MIRAGES FROM DASSAULT WILL PROBABLY
BE FINALIZED WITHIN COMING MONTH. ABU DHABI IS NOW TAKING
DELIVERY OF 14 MIRAGES (SQUADRON OF 12 PLUS
TWO TRAINERDG AND SECOND SQUADRON WOULD INCREASE TOTAL OF
FRENCH AIRCRAFT TO 26. SOME SOURCES SAID DEAL WILL ACTUALLY
BE FOR 18 AIRCRAFT, WHICH TOGETHER WITH 14 ON ORDER WOULD SQUARE
WITH FIGURE OF 32 REPORTED IN US PRESS.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00024 101504Z

2. WITH GREATER DISARRAY THAN USUAL IN UAE AND ABU DHABI GOVERNMENTS IN WAKE RECENT REORGANIZATION, IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT TO GET ANY HARD INFO. BELIEVE PAK AMB SHOULD BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE SOURCE ON THIS SUBJECT AS PAK AF PERSONNEL WILL BE CALLED UPON TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT.

3. FRENCH CHARGE BELLIVIER STRESSING IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES (INCL MYSELF) THAT GOF NOT INTERESTED IN SECONDING LARGE NUMBER ITS OWN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO FLY OR MAINTAIN MIRAGES. THIS REGARD ; HE SAID GOF HAD DECIDED AGAINST HAVING FRENCH AF PILOTS FERRY REMAINING 11 PLANES TO BE DELIVERED UNDER FIRST TRANCHE. SMALL TECHNICAL MISSION WHO CAME WHEN INITIAL THREE PLANES ARRIVED LAST MONTH APPARENTLY WILL REMAIN HERE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE UNDERSTAND EVEN WIO INFLUX OF PAK AF PERSONNEL, ABU DHABI AIR FORCE (FORMERLY AIR WING ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE) HAVING DIFFICULT TIME KEEPING THREE PLANES OPERATIONAL AND WE HAVE REPORT THAT ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE HAS DETAILED TWO SQUADRONS OF INFANTRY TO AIR FORCE TO BE GIVEN CRASH BASIC MAINTENANCE COURSE.

4. FOR PARIS: BELLIVIER TOLD ME HE HAS ASKED QUAI FOR PERMISSION MAKE URGENT TRIP TO PARIS FOR PURPOSE BRIEFING NEWLY NAMED AMBASSADOR TO UAE, MARTIN, AND TAKE CARE OF OTHER SBN BUSINESS. PERHAPS REAL REASON BELLIVIER GOING IS TO ARRANGE FOR JOBERT TRIP MENTIONED PARA 3 REFTEL A, AND GET PROPOSED STATE VISIT OF UAE PRES SHAIKH ZAYID BACK ON SKIDS. UNDERSTAND DATE NOW BEING PROPOSED IS LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. GRIFFIN

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